

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending. Claims 1, 12 and 23, the independent claims, have been amended. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The amendment to claim 1 is believed to obviate the rejection and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 11-13, 17, 22-24, 28 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA). Claims 3, 14, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over AAPA in view of Burtnyk (U.S. Patent 5,471,541). Claims 5, 16 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over AAPA in view of Yang (U.S. Patent 6,580,810). Applicant submits that the amended independent claims are patentable for at least the following reasons.

In the Office Action, at pages 4-5, the Examiner suggested, with regard to claim 1, adding a limitation of an image displacement distribution means and making certain amendments to the recitation image positional relationship detection means. As shown above, claim 1 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. As was recognized in the Office Action, amended claim 1 is distinguished over the AAPA. In view of the above amendment, allowance of amended claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 12 and 23 have been amended in a corresponding manner and are believed patentably distinct from the AAPA for substantially the same reasons as amended claim 1. The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

In view of the fact that the above amendments were based on the suggestions of the Examiner in the Office Action, and are believed clearly to place this case in condition for allowance, entry of this amendment is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: June 23, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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